WE HAVE ONLY ONE ENVIRONMENT

ACME BARREL

The drum reconditioning industry is forced to deal with a constantly changing mix of industrial wastes.

Acme Barrel developed and introduced the Sludge Drainer which collects industrial wastes for treatment.

Acme Barrel stocks up to 200,000 raw drums to guard against seasonal variations in supply.

Acme Barrel became serious about pollution control long before regulatory agencies ever existed.

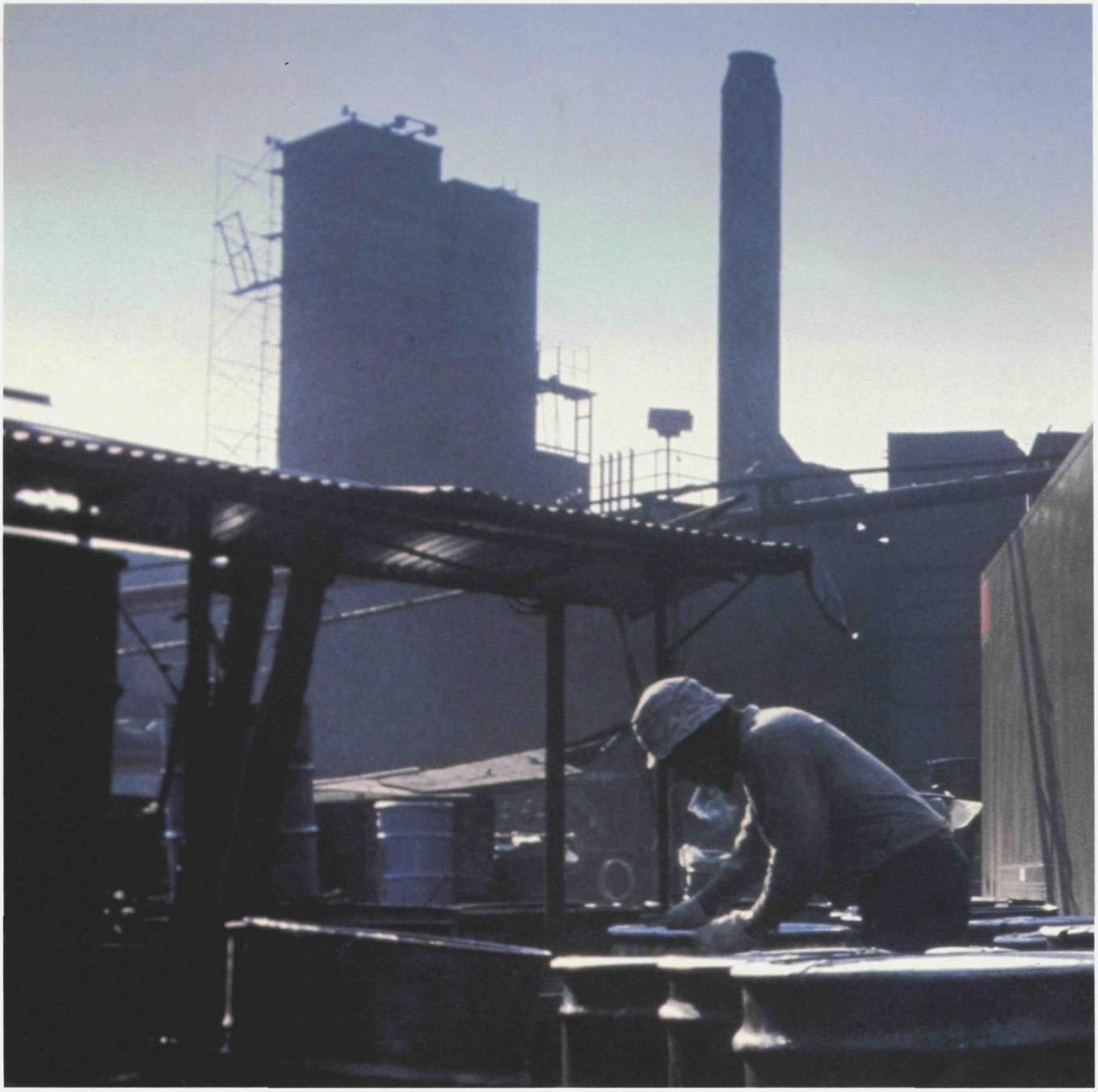
Page 1 – Mammoth Blast Furnaces heat the drums to 1800°F consuming all remaining waste materials. The residue from the process is trapped and treated.

Page 2 – The emissions from the Blast Furnaces pass through powerful gas-fired after-burners (seen at upper left of photo) and the heat generated is recovered and used to power boilers.

Page 4 – Because of the design and versatility of our new drum line, we are able to produce short or long custom runs with ease, speed and efficiency.

WE HAVE ONLY ONE ENVIRONMENT

Buckminster Fuller, the first man to talk of Earth as a spaceship, once said: "The environment is everything that is not me." You then, are part of our environment and we are part of yours. In fact, we have only one environment. ☐ At Acme this is a major concern. We became serious about pollution control long before regulatory agencies ever existed. With this early start it's not surprising that today Acme Barrel is considered a leader in the drum reprocessing industry's fight against the deterioration of our environment. ☐ Over these years we have developed and introduced a number of new techniques for controlling the disposal of industrial wastes. A brief review of our production line demonstrates some of these. ☐ The first and most important step in reprocessing Open Head Drums is solid waste removal. Since the drum reconditioning industry is the only industry that is forced to deal with a constantly changing mix of industrial wastes, the importance of this step cannot be overstated. ☐ To help solve this problem we developed the Sludge Drainer. This machine sprays the drums with live steam, then drains and collects the waste materials. This sludge is then rendered non-hazardous through chemical treatment and transported by licensed waste haulers to EPA approved landfill sites. ☐ The next stop in the line are the blast furnaces. These mammoth gas fired giants heat the drums to 1800°F and consume all remaining waste materials. The residue from the combustion is trapped and treated along with the sludge. The hot gases from this process pass through powerful after-burners and the heat generated is recovered and used to power our boilers. ☐ The Tight Head Drums—those with fixed heads and removable plugs enter a separate line. They pass through a fully automated series of chemical baths. The water used is reprocessed and recycled. All waste chemical solutions are filtered and neutralized before they, too, are recycled. ☐ To monitor these safeguards we operate a fully staffed chemical laboratory within the Acme plant. This lab runs daily inspections and



analyses of water and smoke emissions and controls the quality of cleaning solutions, paints and lining materials. ☐ Energy conservation is another key facet in our continuing concern for our environment. The idea of reconditioning steel drums was one of the first significant recycling processes ever undertaken on a wide scale in the United States. ☐ Independent studies indicate that reconditioning a steel drum consumes only 10% of the energy that manufacturing a new drum requires. The savings in natural resources—iron, steel, coal, coke and oil—are enormous. These are just a few of the ways we at Acme Barrel are demonstrating concern for the environment. ☐ But the battle is not over. We continue to develop new methods of waste disposal and pollution control. New EPA regulations are monitored regularly and we work constantly to stay within ever-tightening EPA guidelines. ☐ When you do business with Acme, you are working with a firm that is in the forefront of the battle for the preservation of our environment. After all, we are in this environment together. We'd better take care of it.*

TIGHT HEAD DRUMS
THE RECONDITIONING PROCESS

Tight Head Drums are reconditioned at Acme on the most fully automated line in the industry. After a pre-flush rinse they receive an initial inspection where the amount of processing appropriate for each drum is determined. Those needing extra cleaning are passed through the Chainer where tumbling chains loosen the most stubborn residue. When inspection indicates the Tight Heads are cleaned sufficiently they return to the line. ☐ The drums are then immersed in a hot chemical solution to strip all exterior paint. Then all dents are blown out with air. ☐ Drums next enter the Flush-a-Matic Machine, a block-long line that scalds and flushes the drum interiors with powerful caustic and acid washes. This process completely strips and de-rusts the drum interiors. ☐ A final chemical bath protects them from re-rusting. The clean drums now move through submerger-pressure testers that determine whether they meet the rigid D.O.T. standards. Those failing the tests

are repaired or discarded. ☐ Approved drums are then shot-blasted to virgin metal and moved to the automated paint sprayers. After being painted they are cured in giant gas-fired ovens. Finished Tight Heads proceed directly to the loading dock or are stored within the factory to await shipment. ☐ Acme Barrel stocks up to 200,000 raw drums in nearby storage yards and keeps approximately 30,000 semi-finished drums under cover. The latter can be custom painted for immediate shipment. ☐ The production lines turn out approximately 7,000 drums per 8 hour shift. Most orders are shipped in less than 24 hours and in most cases shipped via Acme's own 150 truck fleet. Fully computerized billing and inventory controls facilitate the fast handling of these orders.

OPEN HEAD DRUMS
THE RECONDITIONING PROCESS

Open Head Drums enter the line after the tops and rings are removed. The latter pass through a separate, but parallel line, while the drums move along the Sludge Drainer. ☐ The drums then pass through a huge Blast Furnace where the remaining wastes are burned. The drums move next through a 10-wheel Shot Blaster (the largest, most efficient in the industry) where all remaining residue or rust is removed. ☐ The Drum Expander is the next stop for the now spotless drums. Here, a powerful hydraulic expansion press removes all dents and restores the original symmetry. The drums are then tested to be certain they meet D.O.T.† requirements and are inspected once again. Approved drums receive reconditioned covers and rings, then move through automated spray booths. Here they are coated inside and out, to exact customer requirements. The final step is the giant convection ovens where the paint is cured. ☐ Finished drums are stored in a 200,000 square foot storage area as inventory or loaded directly onto Acme trailer trucks for immediate delivery. Most orders are on their way within 24 hours.

* *The Energy Requirements of Steel Drum Manufacturing and Reconditioning by Laurel Lunt Prussing and John E. Prussing, University of Illinois at Urbana, Illinois – 1974.*

† *D.O.T. – Department of Transportation*

ACME STEEL CONTAINER
NOW MAKES NEW STEEL DRUMS

In response to a changing marketplace we recently began manufacturing new steel drums at Acme. Our new production line is located in converted warehouse space within our plant complex. ☐ A combination of unusual circumstances gives us a tremendous edge in this marketplace. Our capital investment has been extremely low because we fabricated most of the line with our own personnel employing equipment we already owned. ☐ The economies of our dual operation also account for tremendous savings. The new facility uses Acme's in-place finishing equipment and huge truck fleet. Often, small new drums orders are shipped as part of a regular reconditioned drum load. ☐ The new operation also enjoys the advantage of Acme's seasoned marketing, managerial and bookkeeping systems. ☐ Because of the design and versatility of the new drum line we are able to handle short or long custom runs with ease and speed. ☐ Special orders can usually be shipped within 24 hours and at prices that are extremely competitive. ☐ For further information or an instant quotation, please phone us at 312-829-3838 or write: Acme Steel Container, 2300 West 13th Street, Chicago, IL 60608.

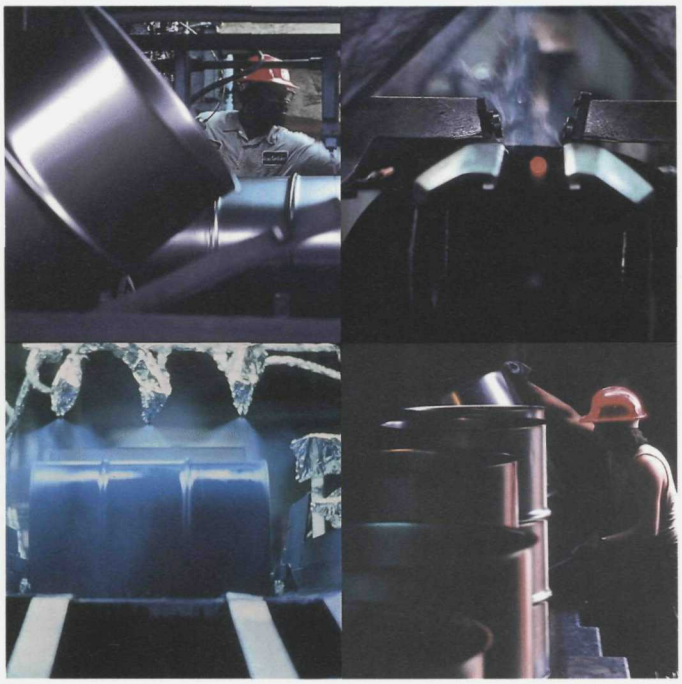
ACME BARREL
A BRIEF HISTORY

The Acme Barrel Company was founded in 1894 to manufacture and repair wooden barrels. By the turn of the century scores of similar companies were started in the booming young city of Chicago. ☐ Today, Acme is the lone survivor of that period. Although the business has changed dramatically since then, Acme's goal remains constant . . . To produce the best possible drum at the best possible price. ☐ Now, with the fourth generation of Pearlmans at the helm, Acme Barrel is the largest, most advanced steel drum reconditioning facility in the United States.

Design – David L. Burke; Photography – Dick Krueger; Text – Elliot Pearlman

What begins as a sheet of steel emerges as a perfectly constructed steel drum.

A combination of unusual circumstances gives us a tremendous edge in the new steel drum marketplace.



New and reprocessed steel drums are painted in the same painting booths to exact customer requirements.

Special orders are usually shipped within 24 hours and at prices that are extremely competitive.

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